

IN THE CLAIMS:

12/31/2003

1-71 (*Cancelled*)

72 (*New*) A method of making sodium alendronate dihydrate comprising the steps of:

- a) drying a mixture of sodium alendronate trihydrate and a reflux medium consisting essentially of absolute ethanol by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of 3Å molecular sieves, whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture,
- b) cooling the mixture, and
- c) isolating sodium alendronate dihydrate.

73. (*New*) A method of making sodium alendronate monohydrate comprising the steps of:

- a) a first drying step comprising drying a mixture of sodium alendronate trihydrate and a reflux medium consisting essentially of absolute ethanol by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of 3Å molecular sieves, whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture,
- b) a second drying step comprising further drying the mixture from step a) by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of fresh 3Å molecular sieves, whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture,
- c) cooling the mixture, and
- d) isolating sodium alendronate monohydrate.